

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Of the

**LIME ROCK FIRE DISTRICT, INC.,
LINCOLN TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
100 OLD RIVER ROAD**

Held September 19, 2013

Present: Mr. Ronald Rivet, Mr. Mark Krieger, Mr. James A. Fredrikson, Mr. Paul Harrison, Mr. John Houghton, Chief Frank Sylvester, Ms. Lesley Heaton, Ms. Cheryl Cronan and approximately 24 other attendees.

Prior to the official start of tonight's meeting, Mr. Ronald Rivet requested Lt. Joe Amaral to step up to the microphone to accept a plaque for his organization of a September 11 ceremony that was recently held. Lt. Amaral was able to get all of the Town's Fire

Departments in one place to observe this day. Chief Sylvester stated that Assistant Chief Jacques composed the words on the plaque.

Mr. Ronald Rivet called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., Monday September 19, 2013

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET.

Mr. Ronald Rivet stated that currently we are at a tax rate of \$2.25 per thousand, which would be \$1.47 for the homeowners after the homestead exemption. Because of the reevaluations and looking at how the values have changed, we are recommending that we go up to \$2.28/ \$1.50, which should bring us in to where we are now perhaps a bit less. We have an enough of a buffer with unexpended funds to absorb it. We do have a two and one half percent contractual increase that has been figured into that.

A draft of the budget is available for you for the coming year. As you can see most of the changes are in the salary area and accrued benefits as we try to plan for the future. We are also adding a bit more into the equipment sinking fund for the same reason. We lowered the professional services quite a bit because we have had a

good year in that respect. Those services include legal fees, payments methods and other things. Otherwise, the majority of the other line items will generally stay pretty much the same as they have been.

The Chief, office staff and all of the men cooperate well and do a great job in bringing us in under budget year after year, which I do not expect to change.

Mr. Ronald Rivet opened the floor up for any questions or comments on the 2013-2014 budget.

Mr. Bob Theroux acknowledged that he is happy with the way the budget has been going for the last few years. However, the budget figures are only for a ten-month period and it would be nice to know what the unexpended funds figure is.

Mr. Ronald Rivet stated that there is approximately one hundred twenty eight thousand. Similar to what was done for this fiscal year, we put fifty thousand back into revenue for this year and will do the same for the 2013/2014 year but are leaning towards one hundred thousand to one hundred fifteen.

Mr. Theroux indicated it would be nice to see it on paper.

Mr. Rivet stated he is aware of it and will make a note for the future.

Mr. James Fredrikson invited Mr. Theroux to attend any of our monthly meeting.

Mr. Rivet inquired if there were any additional questions or comments.

Chief Sylvester stated that he would like to make a comment. First off, I would like to thank the Board of Fire Commissioners for their support over the years. Secondly, I would like to thank all the men of this Department for going along with the things we plan and do. Third, I would like to thank Deputy Chief Tucker for the way he assigns and the money we have saved this year, also the Assistant Chief for his strategy when purchasing for the Department. I think we have one of the best fire departments in the State of Rhode Island. Without the support of the men and dedication of the administrative staff, I could not do the job I do.

Mr. Rivet acknowledges that since we have changed how we operate it is much easier to retain staff and that is a good thing to see.

Mr. Mark Krieger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paul Harrison seconded the motion, which passed with all Commissioners in agreement. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Rivet thanked everyone for attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald E. Rivet Cheryl A. Cronan

Recording Secretaries

cc: R. Rivet, M. Krieger, P. Harrison, J. Fredrikson, J. Houghton file